

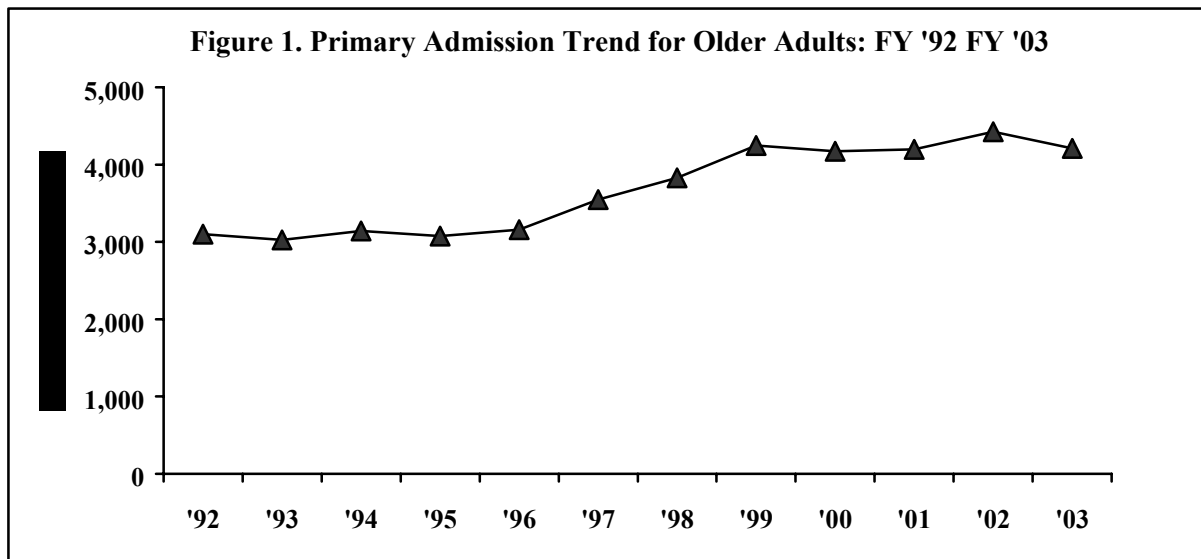
SUBSTANCE ABUSE FACT SHEET: OLDER ADULT ADMISSIONS

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet provides information on all admissions to substance abuse treatment services. Data were reported to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services Management Information System in FY 2003.¹

Overall Treatment Admissions for Older Adults

In FY 2003, 4,211 of admissions to substance abuse treatment services in Massachusetts were 55 years of age and older. Figure 1 illustrates the admission trend for older adults to residential and outpatient services for Fiscal Years 1992 through 2003 (Figure 1).² The decline in the number of admissions reflects a reduction in program capacity rather than a decrease in need for services.



Characteristics of Older Adult Admissions

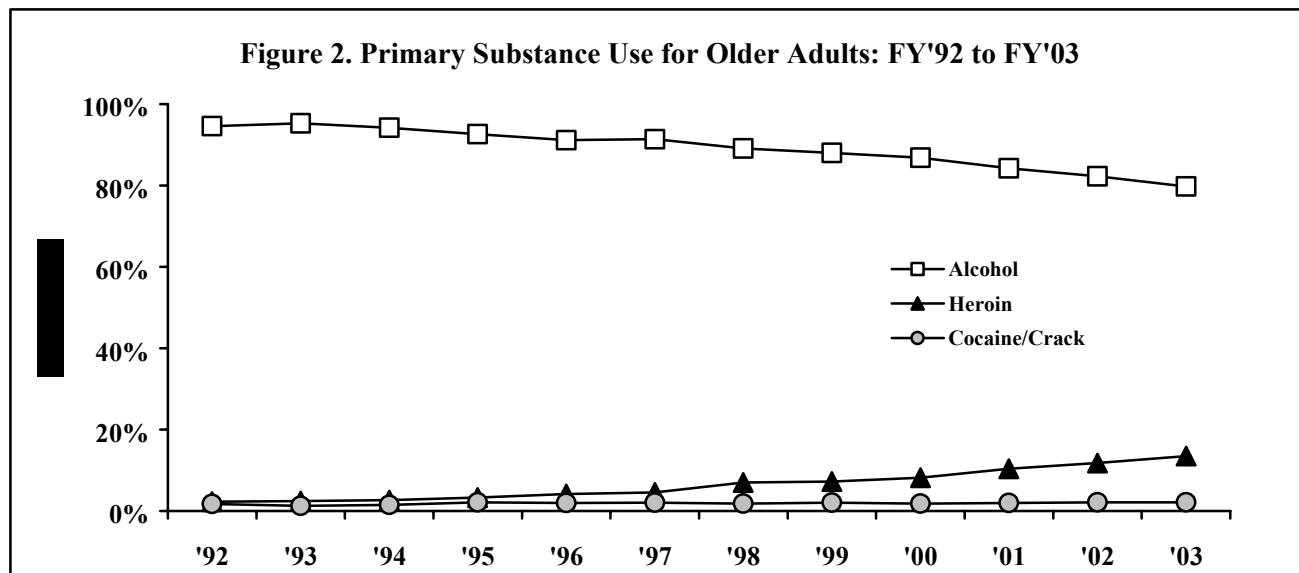
In FY 2003, older adult (ages 55 and older) admissions to substance abuse treatment reported the following characteristics:

- 81.3% (3,422) were male and 18.7% (789) were female.
- 75.7% (3,187) were White, 13.5% (568) were Black, 7.4% (313) were Latino, and 3.4% (143) were other racial categories.
- 75.8% (3,192) were unemployed.
- 22.3% (940) of admissions were homeless.³
- 27.9% (1,176) reported prior mental health treatment.
- 9.7% (410) of admissions reported injection drug use (past year).
- 42.8% (1,800) of admissions were 60 years of age or older, with a mean age of 60.3 years.
- 1.6% (67) were parents of children under six years of age, 50.7% (34) of these admissions reported living with their children. Ten percent (437) were parents of children 6-18 years of age, 37.3% (163) of these admissions reported living with their children.

Primary Substance of Use

In FY 2003, older adult admissions reported alcohol most often as the primary drug for which they were seeking treatment. Of all admissions:

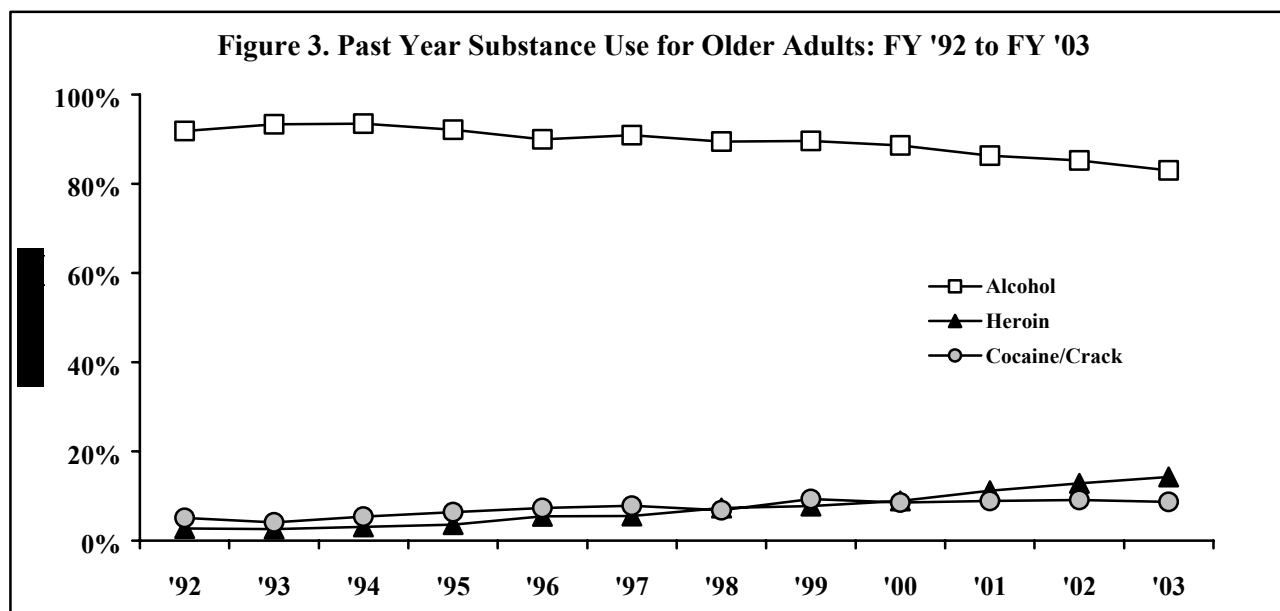
- 79.8% (3,360) reported alcohol as primary substance of use.
- 13.5% (569) reported heroin as primary substance of use.
- 2.1% (88) reported crack and cocaine as primary substance of use.
- 1.0% (42) reported marijuana as primary substance of use.
- 3.6% (152) reported *other* drugs as primary substance of use.



Substance Used in Past Year

In FY 2003, at admission alcohol remained the most reported substance used in the past year among clients 55 years and older. The percents of past year use add up to more than 100% due to poly-drug use. Of all admissions:

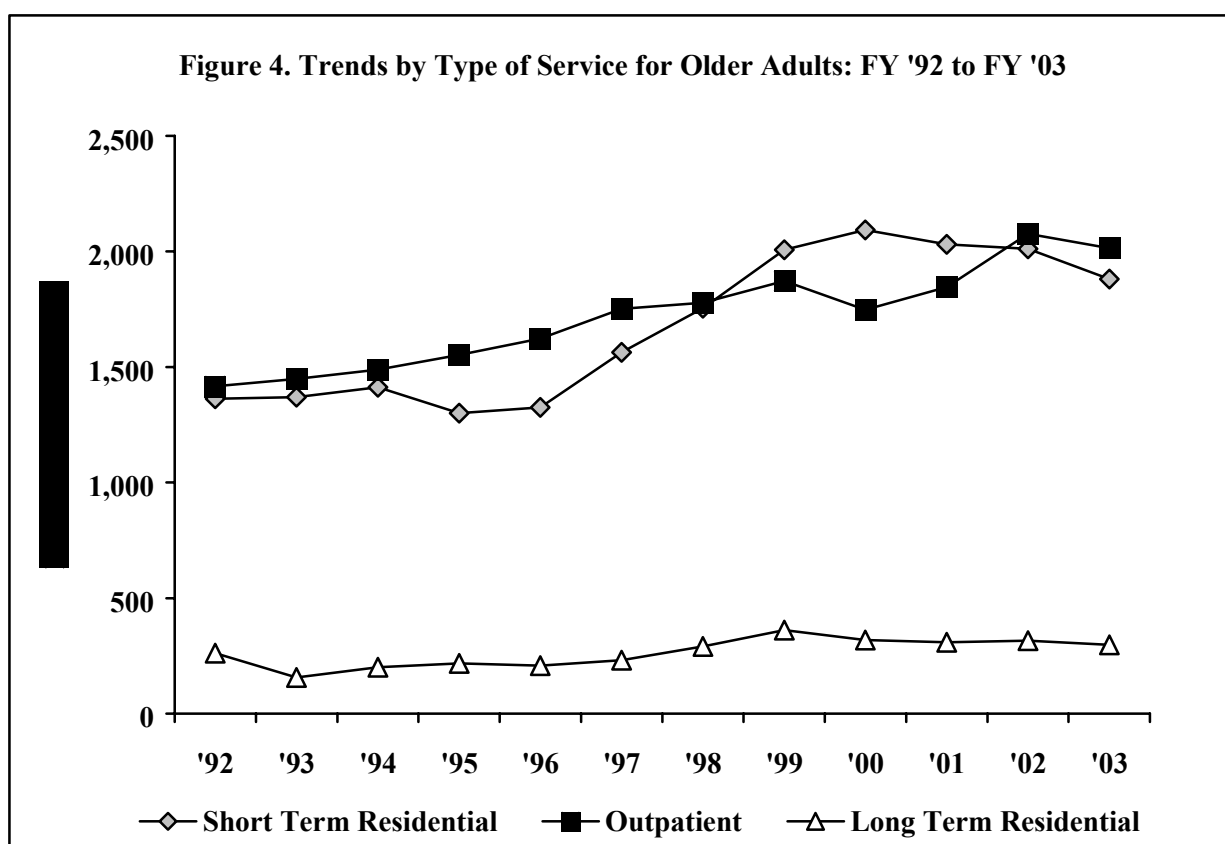
- 83.0% (3,497) reported using alcohol within the 12 months prior to admission.
- 14.3% (603) reported past year heroin use.
- 8.7% (368) reported past year cocaine or crack use.
- 5.6% (234) reported past year marijuana use.
- 12.3% (520) reported past year use of *other* drugs; this includes 4.6% other opiates/synthetics and 3.7% tranquilizers.



Admissions by Services Type

In FY 2003, older adult admissions received services in the following service modalities:

- 44.6% (1,880) were admitted to Short Term Residential (<30 days) Services including Acute Treatment Services (1,773), Transitional Support Services (96), and Post-Detox/Pre-Recovery (11).
- 47.8% (2,014) received Outpatient Services including Day Treatment (157), 1st Offender Drunk Driver (621), Outpatient Counseling (856), Case Management (15), Compulsive Gambling (23), 2nd Offender Aftercare (105), Criminal Justice Collaborative-Adult (less than 5)⁴, Expanded Treatment Services (30), Acupuncture Detox (40), County Corrections (55), and Narcotic Treatment (108).
 - 2.6% (108) of all admissions received Narcotic Treatment Services.
- 7.1% (297) were admitted to Long Term Residential (>30 days) Services including Recovery Homes (102), Therapeutic Communities (14), 2nd Offender Residential (133), Specialized Residential for Women (less than 5)⁵, Social Models (13), and Tewksbury Stabilization (31).
- 0.5% (20) of admissions received Other Services including Supportive Housing (20).



¹ SAMIS data include information reported by all BSAS licensed substance abuse treatment programs for FY 1992 to FY 2003. These data include admissions to BSAS licensed programs that may be reimbursed by Medicaid or other public payers. Trends are reported beginning in FY 1992 when data were first collected in their current form.

² For more data on Substance Abuse see **MassCHIP**: <http://MassCHIP.state.us>

³ These data include the homeless status reported by all primary admissions.

⁴ To protect client confidentiality, calculations based on fewer than 5 events are excluded.

Short Term Residential (<30 Days) Treatment Services Admissions by Older Adults

In FY 2003, 1,880 of the admissions to Short Term Residential (<30 days) Services in Massachusetts were over 55 years of age. This includes admissions to Acute Treatment Services, Transitional Support Services, and Post-Detox/Pre-Recovery

Characteristics of Admissions

Older Adult admissions to Short Term Residential Treatment Services reported the following characteristics:

- 84.9% (1,596) were male and 15.1% (284) were female.
- 72.2% (1,358) were White, 16.2% (304) were Black, and 9.2% (172) were Latino.
- 89.2% (1,676) of admissions were unemployed.
- 41.4% (779) of admissions were homeless.
- 21.1% (397) reported prior mental health treatment.
- 14.7% (277) of admissions reported injection drug use (past year).
- 40.6% (764) of admissions were 60 years or older, with a mean age of 59.9 years.
- 1.6% (30) were parents of children under six years of age, 20.0% (6) of these admissions reported living with their children. Nine percent (161) were the parents of children 6-18 years of age, 17.3% (28) of these admissions reported living with their children.

Primary Substance Of Use

Older Adult admissions to Short Term Residential Services reported alcohol most often as the primary drug for which they were seeking treatment. Of all admissions:

- 77.0% (1,448) reported alcohol as primary substance of use.
- 18.8% (354) reported heroin as primary substance of use.
- 1.0% (19) reported cocaine and crack as primary substance of use.
- 3.1% (59) reported *other* drugs as primary substance of use.

Substance Used in Past Year

In FY 2003, at admission alcohol was the most reported substance used in the past year among older adult admissions to all Short Term Residential Services. The percents of past year use add up to more than 100% due to poly-drug use. Of all admissions:

- 84.5% (1,588) reported past year alcohol use.
- 21.3% (401) reported past year heroin use.
- 8.0% (161) reported past year cocaine or crack use.
- 3.2% (61) reported past year marijuana use.
- 10.9% (204) reported past year use of *other* drugs. This includes 5.0% other opiates/synthetics, 0.2% Amphetamines/other stimulants, 3.9% Tranquilizers, 0.2% Barbiturates/sedatives, 0.2% over the counter drugs, and 1.4% other drugs.

Types of Services

Older adult admissions to Short Term Residential Services received care in the following types of programs:

- 94.3% (1,773) were admitted to Acute Treatment Services.
- 5.7% (105) received Transitional Support Services including Transitional Support Services and Post-Detox/Pre-Recovery Services.

Outpatient Services Admissions by Older Adults

In FY 2003, 2,014 of the admissions to Outpatient Services in Massachusetts were over 55 years of age. This includes admissions to Day Treatment, 1st Offender Drunk Driver, Outpatient Counseling, Case Management, Compulsive Gambling, 2nd Offender Aftercare, Criminal Justice Collaborative-Adult, Expanded Treatment Services, Acupuncture Detox, County Corrections, and Narcotic Treatment.

Characteristics of Admissions

Older adult admissions to Outpatient Treatment Services reported the following characteristics:

- 77.3% (1,556) were male and 22.7% (458) were female.
- 77.9% (1,568) were White, 11.6% (233) were Black, and 6.3% (126) were Latino.
- 62.8% (1264) were unemployed.
- 4.3% (87) were homeless.
- 33.4% (673) reported prior mental health treatment.
- 5.1% (102) of admissions reported injection drug use (past year).
- 45.0% (906) of admissions were 60 years or older, with an average age of 60.7 years.
- 1.4% (29) were parents of children under six years of age, 90.0% (26) of these admissions reported living with their children. Eleven percent (231) were the parents of children 6-18 years of age, 55.0% (127) of these admissions reported living with their children.

Primary Substance Of Use

Older adult admissions to Outpatient Treatment Services reported alcohol most often as the primary drug for which they were seeking treatment. Of all admissions:

- 81.9% (1,650) reported alcohol as primary substance of use.
- 9.0% (181) reported heroin as primary substance of use.
- 2.8% (57) reported cocaine or crack as primary substance of use.
- 2.0% (41) reported marijuana as primary substance of use.
- 4.2% (85) reported *other* drugs as primary substance of use.

Substance Used in Past Year

In FY 2003, at admission alcohol was the most reported substance used in the past year among older adult admissions to all Outpatient Treatment Services. The percents of past year use add up to more than 100% due to poly-drug use. Of all admissions:

- 80.9% (1,629) reported past year alcohol use.
- 8.9% (179) reported past year cocaine or crack use.
- 8.1% (164) reported past year heroin use.
- 7.3% (147) reported past year marijuana use.
- 13.6% (274) reported past year use of *other* drugs. This includes 4.2% other opiates/synthetics, 0.1% PCP/other hallucinogens, 1.1% Amphetamines/other stimulants, 3.4% Tranquilizers, 0.6% Barbiturates/sedatives, 0.1% over the counter drugs, and 4.1% other drugs.

Types of Services

Older adult primary admissions to Outpatient Treatment Services received care in the following program types:

- 36.0% (726) received DAE Services including 1st Offender Drunk Driver, and 2nd Offender Aftercare Services.
- 5.4% (108) received Narcotic Treatment Services.
- 58.6% (1,180) received other outpatient services including Day Treatment, Outpatient Counseling, County Corrections, Case Management, Compulsive Gambling, Acupuncture Detox, Criminal Justice Collaborative (Adult), and Expanded Treatment Services.

Long Term Residential (>30 Days) Treatment Services Admissions by Older Adults

In FY 2003, 297 admissions to Long Term Residential (>30 days) Treatment Services in Massachusetts were over 55 years of age. This includes admissions to Recovery Homes, Therapeutic Communities, 2nd Offender Residential, Specialized Residential for Women, Social Models, and Tewksbury Stabilization.

Characteristics of Admissions

Older adult admissions to all Long Term Residential Treatment Services reported the following characteristics:

- 86.5% (257) were male and 13.5% (40) were female.
- 82.2% (244) were White, 9.4% (28) were Black, and 5.1% (15) were Latino.
- 79.8% (237) were unemployed.
- 23.2% (69) of admissions were homeless.
- 32.6% (97) reported prior mental health treatment.
- 9.4% (28) of admissions reported injection drug use (past year).
- 41.8% (124) of admissions were 60 years or older, with a mean age of 60.3 years.
- 2.4% (7) were parents of children under six years of age, less than five of these admissions reported living with their children*. Fifteen percent (45) were the parents of children 6-18 years of age, 17.8% (8) reported living with their children.

Primary Substance Of Use

Older adult admissions to Long Term Residential Treatment Services reported alcohol most often as the primary drug for which they were seeking treatment. Of all admissions:

- 83.8% (249) reported alcohol as primary substance of use.
- 10.1% (30) reported heroin as primary substance of use.
- 3.0% (9) reported marijuana as primary substance of use.
- 2.5% (8) reported cocaine or crack as primary substance of use.
- 2.7% (8) reported *other* drugs as primary substance of use.

Substance Used in Past Year

In FY 2003, at admission alcohol was the most reported substance used in the past year among older adult admissions to all Long Term Residential Treatment Services. The percents of past year use add up to more than 100% due to poly-drug use. Of all admissions:

- 89.6% (266) reported past year alcohol use.
- 11.8% (35) reported past year heroin use.
- 10.8% (32) reported past year cocaine or crack use.
- 8.4% (25) reported past year marijuana use.
- 13.1% (39) reported past year use of *other* drugs. This includes 5.1% other opiates/synthetics, 0.7% PCP/other hallucinogens, 1.7% Amphetamines/other stimulants, 3.4% Tranquilizers, 0.7% Barbiturates/sedatives, 0.3% inhalants, 0.3% over the counter drugs, and 1.0% other drugs.

Types of Services

Older adult admissions to Long Term Residential Treatment Services received care in the following service modalities:

- 53.9% (160) received treatment in Recovery Homes, Therapeutic Communities, Social Model, and Tewksbury Stabilization.
- 44.8% (133) were admitted to 2nd Offender Residential Services.
- Less than five* were admitted to Specialized Residential Services for Women.

* To protect client confidentiality, calculations based on fewer than 5 events are excluded.